JÉRÔME
LE GRIS

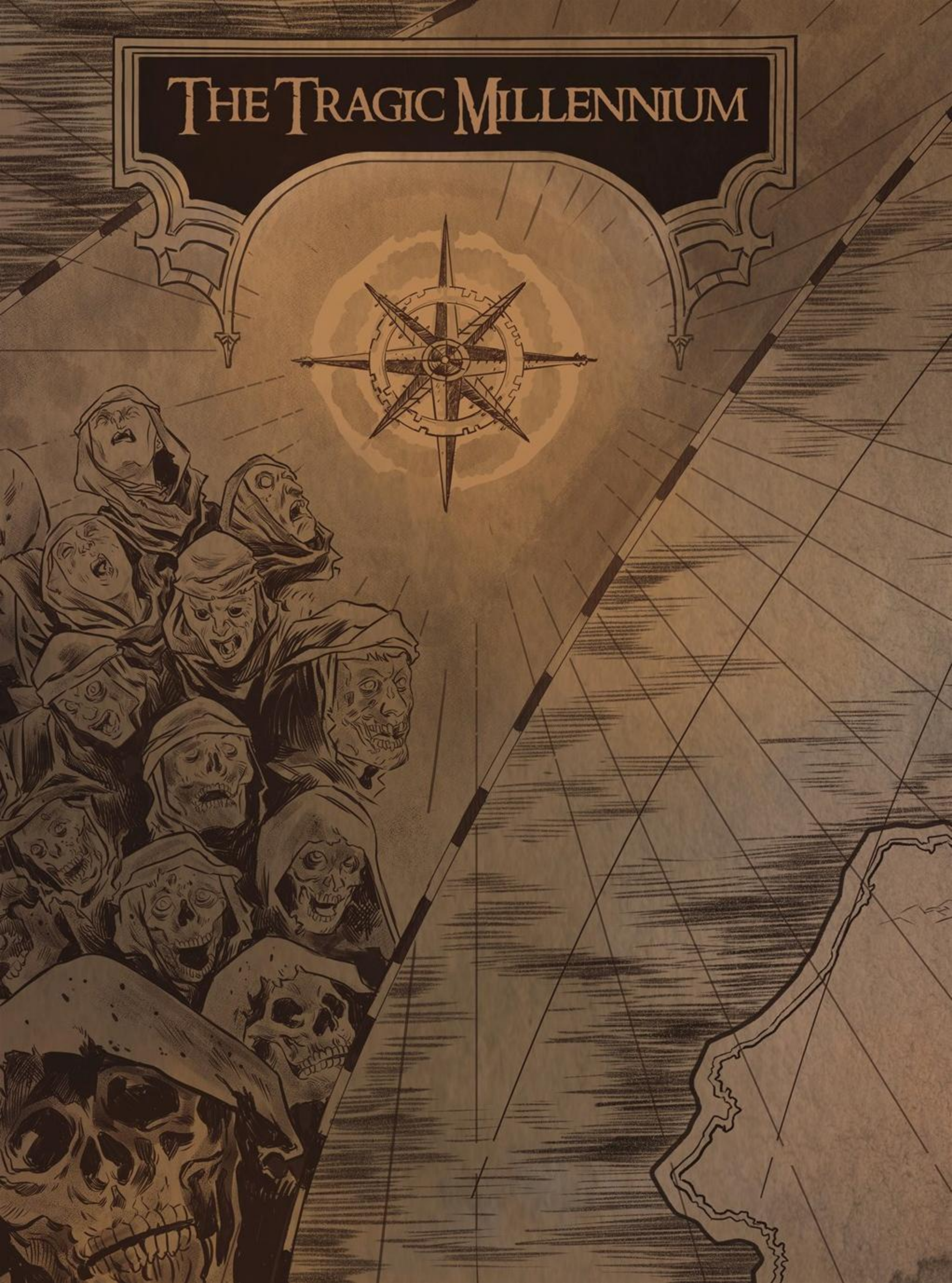
BENOÎT
DELLAC

MICHAEL MOORCOCK

# HAWKMOON

## THE BATTLE OF KAMARG

# The Tragic Millennium



SHATTERED ISLE
LONDRA
PARYE
KÖLN
LYON
AIGUES MORTES

MICHAEL MOORCOCK

# HAWKMOON

## THE BATTLE OF KAMARG

TITAN COMICS

## TITAN COMICS

**GROUP EDITOR**
JAKE DEVINE

**SENIOR CREATIVE EDITOR**
DAVID LEACH

**LEAD CREATIVE EDITOR**
PHOEBE HEDGES

**EDITORS**
JONATHAN WILKINS
& LOUIS YAMANI

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**
IBRAHEEM KAZI

**EDITORIAL ASSISTANT**
HOLLY SMITH

**ART DIRECTOR**
OZ BROWNE

**DESIGNERS**
DAN BURA, DAVID COLDERLEY
& MATT BOOKMAN

**HEAD OF PRODUCTION**
KEVIN WOOFF

**PRODUCTION MANAGER**
JACKIE FLOOK

**PRODUCTION CONTROLLERS**
CATERINA FALQUI & KELLY FENLON

**PUBLICITY MANAGER**
WILL O'MULLANE

**PUBLICIST**
JULIA OPRZONDEK

**DIRECT MARKET SALES COORDINATOR**
BRYCE WALKER

**DIGITAL & MARKETING MANAGER**
JO TEATHER

**MARKETING COORDINATOR**
LAUREN NODING

**SALES & CIRCULATION MANAGER**
STEVE TOTHILL

**HEAD OF RIGHTS**
IGA KAMINSKA

**RIGHTS EXECUTIVE**
MARY-BETH PRINDEZI

**HEAD OF CREATIVE & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**
DUNCAN BAIZLEY

**PUBLISHING DIRECTORS**
RICKY CLAYDON & JOHN
DZIEWIATKOWSKI

**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**
ANDREW SUMNER

**PUBLISHERS**
VIVIAN CHEUNG
& NICK LANDAU

Hawkmoon: The Battle Of Kamarg
ISBN: 9781787744172

Published by Titan Comics, a division of Titan Publishing Group Ltd. 144 Southwark Street London SE1 0UP. Titan Comics is a registered trademark of Titan Publishing Group Ltd.

With thanks to J. David Spurlock & Vanguard Productions.



Hawkmoon – Tome 02 : La bataille de Kamarg © Editions Glénat 2023 by Le Gris & Dellac – ALL RIGHTS RESERVED
Based on the original Work by Michael Moorcock.

The present adaptation of Hawkmoon is an original creation of Jérôme Le Gris, Benoît Dellac, Didier Poli and Bruno Tatti.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the prior written permission of the publisher. Names, characters, places and incidents featured in this publication are either the product of the author's imagination or used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead (except for satirical purposes), is entirely coincidental.



A CIP catalogue record for this title is available from the British Library.

First edition, March 2026.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in China.

EU RP
eucomply OÜ Pärnu mnt 139b-14 11317
Tallinn, Estonia
hello@eucompliancepartner.com
+3375690241

MICHAEL MOORCOCK

# HAWKMOON

## THE BATTLE OF KAMARG

ADAPTED AND WRITTEN BY
JÉRÔME LE GRIS

ART BY
BENOÎT DELLAC
DIDIER POLI

COLORS BY
BRUNO TATTI

ASSISTED BY
ANGÉLINA RODRIGUES

TRANSLATED BY
MARC BOURBON-CROOK

LETTERED BY
LAUREN BOWES

EDITED BY
IBRAHEEM KAZI

DESIGNED BY
OZ BROWNE

TITAN COMICS

# IN THE PREVIOUS EPISODE

After being defeated by the Granbreton armies in Köln, Duke Dorian Hawkmoon is held captive in the city of Londra. There, the odious scientist Kalan embeds a magic jewel in his forehead in order to control his every move. Hawkmoon can then be sent on a mission to Kamarg where Baron Meliadus asks him to abduct Yisselda, the daughter of Count Airain whom he has sworn to destroy. The Duke of Köln, compelled, therefore goes to Aigues-Mortes with very little hope of returning alive...

THE CITY OF AIGUES-MORTES, DUCHY OF KAMARG, 86TH YEAR OF THE EAGLE.

WHO IS THIS MAN, LIEUTENANT VON VILLACH?

AND WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?

A TRAVELER WHO VENTURED PAST THE SENTINEL TOWERS.

HE WAS RIDING TOWARDS THE CITY.

HOW DID HE GET PAST?

HE WAS ALONE AND UNARMED. THE TOWER SENTRIES WEREN'T CONCERNED.

THEY WARNED ME AND ALLOWED HIM TO PASS.

MY MEN AND I INTERCEPTED HIM NOT FAR FROM THE WALLS AND BROUGHT HIM IN FOR QUESTIONING.

SO, WHAT DID HE SAY?

HE CLAIMS TO BE THE DUKE OF KÖLN.

AND REQUESTS YOUR PROTECTION.

THE DUKE OF KÖLN?

IS THIS REALLY WHAT YOU CLAIM, TRAVELER?

IF THAT WERE TRUE, THEN I SHOULD TREAT YOU LIKE A HERO. KÖLN IS THE ONLY OCCASION WHERE THE EMPIRE HAS STUMBLED IN A LONG TIME. THE STORY OF IT IS WIDELY KNOWN ALL OVER EUROPE.

YES. I AM DORIAN HAWKMOON, SON OF DUKE FRIEDRICH HAWKMOON KILLED DURING THE SACKING OF MY CITY BY THE GRANBRETANS.

I AM INDEED THE DUKE OF KÖLN.

YOU HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT ME, COUNT BRASS.

IF YOU ARE TRULY DUKE FRIEDRICH'S SON....

THEN I KNEW YOUR MOTHER FROM THE SIEGE OF HANOVER A LONG TIME AGO. SHE WAS STILL A CHILD THEN.

WHAT WAS HER NAME?

MY MOTHER WAS MATHILDA OF KERKHOVE, DAUGHTER TO THE MARQUIS OF KERKHOVE AND PRINCE OF HANOVER.

IF MATHILDA WAS INDEED YOUR MOTHER, THEN YOU MUST REMEMBER HOW SHE DIED.

TAKEN BY THE SICKNESS WHEN I WAS STILL A CHILD.

WHAT SICKNESS?

THE RED MIST, BROUGHT BY BOATS OF ITALIA. HER AGONY LASTED THIRTEEN DAYS.

ALL THIS PROVES NOTHING, COUNT. HE COULD HAVE HEARD THESE STORIES ANYWHERE.

DO YOU REMEMBER THE GRAND SECRET KERKHOVE FAMILY MOTTO, WHICH ONLY ITS DESCENDANTS ARE ENTRUSTED WITH?

HOW COULD I FORGET?

THEY WERE MY MOTHER'S LAST WORDS.

I'M SURPRISED YOU KNOW THEM, COUNT.

THE MOTTO WAS REVEALED TO ME BY THE MARQUIS OF KERKHOVE HIMSELF...

WHO, FOLLOWING OUR MILITARY SUCCESS IN HANOVER, CONSIDERED ME FOR A WHILE LIKE HIS OWN SON.

'ENDURE TO SURVIVE'.

THAT WAS OUR FAMILY MOTTO.

I WAS THEN TAKEN TO LONDRA WHERE MEN IN SERPENT MASKS DROVE THIS STONE INTO MY SKULL...

I WAS LUCKY TO ESCAPE BEFORE THEY WERE DONE WITH THEIR EXPERIMENTS.

AND EVEN THOUGH THIS JEWEL SOMETIMES BURNS, I HOPE NEVER TO LEARN WHAT THEY TRULY HAD IN MIND.

WHY DID THE GRANBRETANS DO THIS TO YOU?

I HAVE NO IDEA.

HOW DID YOU GET AWAY FROM THE DARK CITY?

BY DISGUISING MYSELF AS A DOG SOLDIER.

I ACQUIRED A HELM AND A UNIFORM FROM A WARRIOR I DEFEATED IN MY ESCAPE, AND THIS ALLOWED ME TO INFILTRATE A REGIMENT LEAVING FOR THE CONTINENT.

DID YOU TAKE THE SILVER BRIDGE?

YES. AS FAR AS KARLAY, IN FRANCE.

THEN WE TOOK THE CRYSTAL ROAD TO PARYE, AND THEN I CARRIED ON ALONE TO LYON AND THEN HERE.

WHAT NEWS DO YOU BRING OF THE EMPIRE'S ADVANCE ACROSS FRANCE?

THE ANCIENT CITY OF LYON HAS FALLEN.

IT'S BEEN RAISED TO THE GROUND.

WHICH MEANS THE REST OF THE NATION WILL SOON FALL INTO HUON'S GRASP.

YES, THE FRANK MILITIAS GATHERING AT AVIGNON WILL BE POWERLESS TO STOP THE EMPIRE'S ADVANCE. TODAY, ALL OF EUROPE IS THREATENED.

FATHER... IF WHAT HAWKMOON SAYS IS TRUE, WE MUST DO SOMETHING.

THERE'S UNFORTUNATELY NOTHING WE CAN DO, DEAR YISSELDA. EXCEPT WAIT SAFELY BEHIND OUR WALLS, PROTECTED BY OUR SENTINEL TOWERS.

DO YOU BELIEVE WE CAN STAND UP AGAINST THE EMPIRE'S TROOPS, COUNT BRASS?

YES, WE CAN HOLD THEM BACK. IF WE ARE PREPARED.

TELL US, DUKE OF KÖLN, WHAT BROUGHT YOU HERE TO DISTANT KAMARG?

AS YOU KNOW, THERE IS A BOUNTY ON MY HEAD IN THE EMPIRE.

AND THERE'S PRECIOUS FEW PLACES I COULD BE SAFE--EXCEPT I THOUGHT THAT...

YOU THOUGHT RIGHT. YOU ARE WELCOME HERE, DORIAN HAWKMOON.

STAY AS LONG AS YOU PLEASE. THE TIME HAS MAYBE COME TO SLOW DOWN THESE GRANBRETONS.

THANK YOU, COUNT.

I SWEAR NOT TO BE A BURDEN TOO LONG, THE TIME TO FORGE SEVERAL ALLIANCES TO HELP ME CLAIM BACK WHAT'S MINE.

AND TAKE KÖLN BACK FROM THE INVADERS.

AT LEAST WE ARE NOW WARNED, COUNT. IF LEFT UNCHECKED, THE DARK EMPIRE WILL SOON RULE OVER ALL OF EUROPE.

AND KAMARG WILL NOT BE SPARED.

IT WOULD APPEAR YOUR ENEMIES ARE BECOMING OURS, DUKE OF KÖLN.

I PROPOSE A TOAST, MY FRIENDS, TO OUR GUEST.

TO DUKE HAWKMOON, WHO BRAVELY FOUGHT BACK AGAINST THE ARMIES OF THE EMPIRE!

LET HIS EXAMPLE INSPIRE THE BATTLES TO COME.

TO THE DUKE!

TO THE DUKE!

WE DINE EARLY IN KAMARG, SO WE MAY FULLY ENJOY THE SUNSET.

ESPECIALLY IN THE SUMMER.

THIS LAND IS A PARADISE, YISSELDA.

ITS BEAUTY ALONE IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR.

KAMARG IS INDEED A MAGICAL PLACE.

STILL SUFFICIENTLY REMOVED FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD TO BE SPARED FROM ALL THE FIGHTING.

THE GRANBRETANS BURNT MY LANDS, AND EVERYWHERE I'VE BEEN, THE FIELDS ARE COATED IN ASH, THE CITIES RAISED TO THE GROUND, AND THE GALLOWS ERECTED.

THE SMOKE OF PYRES FILLS THE SKY, AND THE CRIES FROM PILLAGING HAVE REPLACED THE BIRDSONG.

I DISCOVER WITH JOY THAT SUCH HAVENS STILL EXIST.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE, DORIAN. YOUR EXPLOITS ARE WELL KNOWN, AND MY FATHER RESPECTS YOU GREATLY. YOUR PRESENCE HERE AND YOUR FRIENDSHIP ARE A PLEASURE FOR US ALL.

THANK YOU, YISSELDA.

REST WELL TONIGHT, DEAR DUKE. YOUR JOURNEY MUST HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTING.

I WILL SEE YOU TOMORROW.

WHAT THE...?

WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF SCIENCE, DUKE OF KÖLN?

YOU'VE... DRUGGED ME...

THE WINE... NO...

YOU...

THE SCIENCE OF OUR AGE, WHICH OTHERS CALL MAGIENCE, WAS BORN AT THE VERY BEGINNING OF THE TRAGIC MILLENNIUM WHEN THE MAGES DISCOVERED THE EXISTENCE OF THE FLUXES.

LET ME GO...

THESE FLUXES CAN BE HARNESSED AS PURE ENERGIES THAT ALL SCHOLARS MUST MASTER BEFORE THEY CAN EMPLOY THEM.

LET ME GO!

THESE FLUXES HAVE THREE FORMS.

DARK FLUX AS USED EXCLUSIVELY BY THE EMPIRE, AND WHICH ALLOWS THEIR DEATH MACHINES TO FLY.

STAINED FLUX AS EMPLOYED BY BOWGENTLE TO ANIMATE THE DEFENSE SYSTEMS PLACED IN OUR SENTINEL TOWERS.

AND SCARLET FLUX, WHICH IS HIGHLY UNSTABLE, HARD TO CONTROL, AND ALMOST ENTIRELY DISAPPEARED FROM TODAY.

DARK FLUX, WHICH IS DESTRUCTIVE AND CORRUPTING, CAN ONLY BE USED BY SCIENTISTS OF THE EMPIRE.

IT'S THE MARK OF GRANBRETAN AND ITS TRACE IS ONLY FOUND IN THE TOOLS THAT SERVE THEM.

WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH ME BEING IN THIS CELL?

THE STONE IN YOUR FOREHEAD, HAWKMOON.

BOWGENTLE'S CRYSTAL SPECTACLES CAN DETECT THE DARKNESS COMING OFF IT.

THE STONE IS IMBUED WITH BAD MAGIC BUT KNOW ALSO THAT OUR ENEMIES ARE USING IT RIGHT NOW TO OBSERVE US.
YOU'RE RIGHT, BRASS.

VERY INTERESTING.

CAN THEY HEAR US?
NO, ONLY SEE US. THANKS TO THE POWER OF THIS STONE.

IS THIS POSSIBLE, BOWGENTLE?

ABSOLUTELY, COUNT. A SCHOLAR USING BLACK FLUX COULD DEVISE THIS MANNER OF ARTIFICE.

WHY DID THE GRANBRETANS SEND YOU HERE, HAWKMOON? FOR WHAT REASON?

BARON MELIADUS ORDERED ME TO GAIN YOUR CONFIDENCE.

TO STEAL AWAY WITH YOUR DAUGHTER AND BRING HER TO LONDRA.

THAT'S ABSURD. YOU COULD HAVE FREED YOURSELF ONCE YOU WERE HERE.

NO, COUNT. THIS STONE DOES MORE THAN JUST SPY MY EVERY MOVEMENT--IT CAN ALSO DESTROY MY VERY SOUL.

WITH JUST A MERE GESTURE OF THEIRS.

YOU'RE A TRAITOR, DUKE.

VON VILLACH SHOULD HAVE KILLED YOU IN THE COURTYARD.

HOW LONG, LIEUTENANT?

TWO DAYS AT MOST, COUNT.

THEIR ARMY IS MARCHING DOWN THE RHÔNE. THEY'LL BE HERE SOON.

HOW MANY MEN?

AROUND TEN THOUSAND ACCORDING TO OUR SCOUTS.

THEY'LL BE FORCED TO PASS THROUGH HERE, ON THIS NARROW STRETCH OF GROUND SURROUNDED BY SWAMPS. THEIR ARMY WOULD GET BOGGED DOWN ANYWHERE ELSE.

ARE WE READY, VON VILLACH?

I HOPE SO.

THE BALLISTIC TOWER WILL BE FULLY LOADED BY THEN, THANKS TO THE TWO DEFENSIVE TOWERS EXTRACTING STAINED FLUX FROM THE ATMOSPHERE.

NO ONE SUSPECTS THE POWER OF OUR MACHINES. OUR FIREPOWER WILL SURPRISE THEM. WE NEED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT.

WHO LEADS THE GRANBRETANS?

BARON MELIADUS HIMSELF.

I FEAR HE MAY HAVE MADE THE FALL OF KAMARG A PERSONAL MATTER.

HOW MANY ORNITHOPTERS DO THEY HAVE?

A HUNDRED, ALL ARMED WITH CANNONS.

OUR FLAMINGOS WILL STOP THEM, VON VILLACH. THEY MAY LACK THEIR FIREPOWER, BUT THEY'RE MORE AGILE AND FLY MUCH HIGHER.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, GRANBRETAN WILL BE CHALLENGED IN THE AIR.

THEY'LL POSITION THEIR BOMBARDS JUST IN FRONT OF THOSE HILLS. THEY WILL THINK THEM OUT OF OUR RANGE.

ALLOW THEM TO SET UP AND ADJUST OUR CANNONS. THE FIREPOWER FROM THE BALLISTIC TOWER SHOULD SEVERELY DAMAGE THEIR ARTILLERY.

OUR MACHINES HAVE NEVER BEEN TESTED IN WAR, COUNT. WE'RE ALL CONVINCED BY BOWGENTLE'S FABULOUS WORK IN DEVISING THEM.

BUT WE CAN'T BE TOTALLY CERTAIN OF THEIR EFFICIENCY.

I NO LONGER HAVE THE TIME FOR SUCH CONSIDERATIONS, LIEUTENANT.

THE GRANBRETANS ARE TWO DAYS AWAY FROM OUR WALLS. WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TRUST IN BOWGENTLE'S CANNONS.

YOU'RE RIGHT, COUNT.

ASSUMING OUR SYSTEMS PERFORM AS WELL AS POSSIBLE, WHAT DO YOU PREDICT NEXT?

MELIADUS WILL FIRST TEST HIS ARTILLERY ON THE SHIELD GENERATED BY OUR DEFENSIVE TOWERS, WHICH IS WHEN WE MUST STRIKE.

THE BALLISTIC TOWER WILL ONLY FIRE ONE VOLLEY, COUNT. WE CAN'T EXPECT MORE GIVEN THE TIME IT TAKES FOR THE CAPACITORS TO RECHARGE. WE'LL NEED TO TAKE THAT INTO ACCOUNT.

AND CHOOSE THE PERFECT MOMENT, I KNOW.

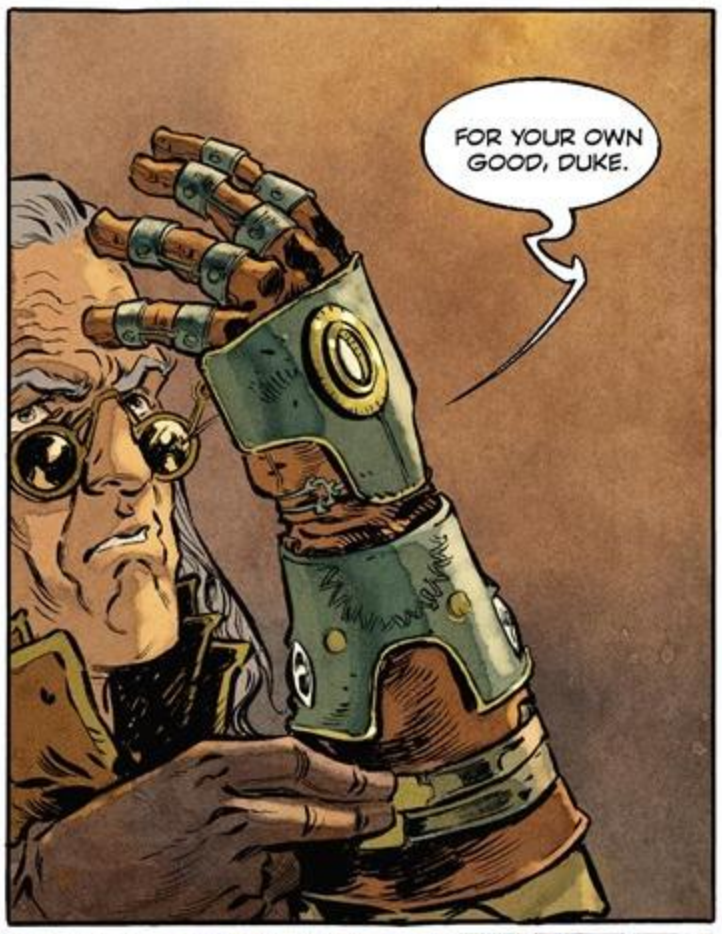
THE HOUSES OF KÖLN AND KERKHOVE FROM WHICH HE IS BORN HAVE ALWAYS BEEN KNOWN FOR BRAVERY AND DETERMINATION.

HAVE YOU DECIDED WHAT TO DO WITH THE DUKE?

I THINK WE CAN TRUST HIM.

WHY AM I HERE?

AND STILL TIED UP?


FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, DUKE.

THAT GAUNTLET? WHAT IS IT?

A GAUNTLET OF EXTRACTION. IT'S CALLED THE HAND OF MANI IN HONOR OF AN ANCIENT PERSIAN MAGE.

I TRADED IT A LONG TIME AGO WITH A TURKIASH MERCHANT FOR ELEVEN DESTRIERS.

IT'S AN ARTIFACT OF GREAT VALUE AND IMMENSE USE. I COULD NEVER HAVE DEVISED THE MACHINES THAT PROTECT THIS REALM WITHOUT IT.

I'M JUST A SOLDIER, BOWGENTLE. A SOLDIER WHO KNOWS NOTHING OF SCIENCE. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO ME?

COUNT BRASS HAS DECIDED TO TRUST YOU, SO I AM IN TURN GOING TO ATTEMPT AND REMOVE THE BLACK FLUX JEWEL.

BUT NOTHING IS CERTAIN WITH THE FLUX. I CAN'T PROMISE YOU THIS WON'T HURT. I HAVE NO IDEA.

ARE YOU READY TO TAKE THE RISK?

I CAN'T ALLOW THE GRANBRETANS TO HAVE THIS DOMINION OVER ME. DO WHAT YOU MUST.

AND DESTROY THE POWER OF THIS STONE.

VERY WELL.

IT'S POSSIBLE YOU'LL EXPERIENCE SHARP PAIN AND SEE CERTAIN THINGS.

IT'S THE REASON YOU ARE CONSTRAINED.

RELAX.

I SWEAR ON THE RUNESTAFF TO REDUCE KAMARG TO ASH!

NOW GO, YOUNG DUKE!

GO AND EARN OUR FAVOR.

DUKE? CAN YOU HEAR ME?

DUKE?

WHAT DID YOU SEE?

A STAFF... I THINK...

BEYOND ANCIENT AND CARVED WITH RUNES.

EMBEDDED IN ROCK AT THE BASE OF A MOUNTAIN...

THERE WAS ALSO A STRANGE KNIGHT... CLAD IN JET AND GOLD.

NOTHING USEFUL TO US, I'M AFRAID.

DID YOU... DID YOU SUCCEED?

YES.

THE GAUNTLET ABSORBED ALL THE FLUX FROM THE STONE AND TRANSFERRED IT TO THIS ORB OF THREE HEARTS.

THE GRANBRETANS CAN NO LONGER MAKE USE OF YOU, LORD HAWKMOON, NOR HURT YOU FROM AFAR.

IS THIS TRUE, BOWGENTLE?

HAVE YOU FREED ME?

FOR SOME TIME, ONLY.

THESE THREE GLASS PRISONS WILL SLOWLY FAIL ONE AFTER ANOTHER, AND THE FLUX ONCE AGAIN RELEASED TO RETURN TO THE BLACK STONE IN YOUR FOREHEAD.

ALL I'VE DONE IS OFFER YOU A LITTLE TIME, DUKE OF KÖLN. THIS IS THE ONLY THING IN MY POWER, I'M AFRAID.

THERE IS NO WAY THEN TO DESTROY THIS FLUX?

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE DISCIPLES OF MANI COULD, THANKS TO THE DESTRUCTIVE POWER OF SCARLET FLUX, BUT THEIR ORDER HAVE LONG SINCE DISAPPEARED.

THE ONLY INDIVIDUAL CAPABLE OF SUCH A FEAT UNFORTUNATELY DWELLS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD.

WHAT'S THEIR NAME, BOWGENTLE?

TELL ME HOW TO FIND THEM?

THE SCHOLAR MALAGIGI.

AND IF THE RED MAGE STILL LIVES YOU CAN FIND HIM IN THE ANCIENT CITY OF HAMADAN, AT THE FURTHEST ENDS OF THE PERSIAN DESERTS.

DO I HAVE TIME?

IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY, HAWKMOON. IT'S A VERY LONG JOURNEY.

AND I DON'T KNOW IF THIS ORB WILL FAIL TOMORROW OR ENDURE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS.

YOU MUST LIVE WITH HIS UNCERTAINTY.

I'M SORRY.

CITY OF LONDRA. THE MANTIS PALACE.

FOR HOW LONG?

A FEW HOURS, KING-EMPEROR.

PERHAPS WE'VE UNDERESTIMATED THE POWER OF THE WHITE MAGES OF KAMARG, AND THEIR MASTERY OF STAINED FLUX?

I DON'T THINK SO, KING-EMPEROR. I DON'T BELIEVE WHITE FLUX SORCERY CAPABLE OF SUCH A THING. I WOULD HAZARD A DIFFERENT HYPOTHESIS.

BEING?

RED FLUX, KING-EMPEROR.

ITS UNSTABLE NATURE GIVES IT THE UNIQUE PROPERTIES TO DETECT AND DESTROY OTHER SOURCES OF ENERGY PRESENT IN ITS FIELD.

IT'S WHAT MADE USING IT SO DANGEROUS.

THE DARK FLUX OF THE BLACK JEWEL HAS POSSIBLY BEEN DESTROYED BY AN EXPLOSION OF SCARLET.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN, BARON KALAN, THAT THE ENTIRE POOL OF SCARLET FLUX WAS CONSUMED DURING THE WHIRLWIND WARS, SEVERAL CENTURIES AGO?

IT'S TRUE.

BUT MIGHT CERTAIN ISOLATED SOURCES REMAIN?

NO, KALAN.

THE DARK FLUX WITHIN THE BLACK STONE HAS NOT BEEN DESTROYED.

WHY?

BECAUSE MY SENSORS STILL DETECT ITS PRESENCE.

THEN HOW HAVE WE LOST ALL POWER OVER THE DUKE?

THIS QUESTION IS FOR YOU TO ANSWER, BARON KALAN!

YES, I WILL ATTEND TO IT.

IN THE MEANTIME, SEND A MESSAGE TO BARON MELIADUS. HIS ARMIES MUST BE UPON THE GATES OF KAMARG BY NOW.

MAKE IT KNOW...

THAT I WISH TO SEE THE HEAD OF THIS DUKE OF KÖLN ON A SPIKE.

KAMARG, AT THE SAME TIME.

SIMPLE TOWERS OF STONE. I DON'T SEE WHAT THERE IS TO FEAR, BARON.

MAKE NO MISTAKE, COMMANDER JEREK, THE MAGIC OF THE SENTINELS IS VERY ANCIENT.

THAT FORCE FIELD THEY GENERATE THAT YOU CAN BARELY EVEN SEE WOULD PREVENT ANY INTRUSION, BY LAND AS BY AIR.

THEN HOW DO WE PROCEED?

MY SORCERERS DETECTED A WEAKNESS IN THE ALIGNMENT OF WHITE FLUX OF THE TOWERS AT A HEIGHT OF A THOUSAND FEET. THREE POWERFUL SUCCESSIVE AIRSTRIKES DELIVERED TO THIS EXACT POINT SHOULD BRING THEM DOWN, BUT IT'S NOT CERTAIN.

WHO WILL PERFORM THE STRIKES?

THREE PYROTHOPTERS PILOTED BY WIDOWS OF THE CROW.

DO THEY KNOW IT'S A SUICIDE MISSION?

YES, THEY KNOW.

A GREAT HONOR, AND THEIR NAMES FOREVER ENGRAVED IN THE PALACE OF TEARS.

AND THE CENTRAL TOWER?

A BALLISTIC TOWER THAT WILL LAY FIRE DOWN ON OUR ARTILLERY. ITS REAL POWER IS UNKNOWN, BUT IT HAS AN IMPRESSIVE RANGE.

WE WON'T BE ABLE TO AVOID IT.

WHITE FLUX MAGIC IS BETTER SUITED TO BUILDING THAN DESTROYING. I DO NOT SHARE YOUR CONCERNS REGARDING THESE TOWERS.

WE SHALL SEE TOMORROW.

OUR BALLISTAE WILL ARRIVE DURING THE NIGHT WITH OUR FLYING SQUADRONS. WHERE DO YOU WISH THEM POSITIONED?

ON THAT HILL, COMMANDER. YOUR FLY TROOPS WILL BE PLACED SECOND RANK TO MY WOLVES. I WANT ALL OUR FORCES READY AT DAWN.

I'M STRUGGLING TO UNDERSTAND. WHY DEPLOY SO MUCH POWER AND TROOPS TO THIS POOR AND REMOTE SPIT OF LAND?

I SWORE TO RAISE THIS KINGDOM TO THE GROUND.

AND NOTHING IN THIS WORLD IS GOING TO PREVENT ME FROM DOING SO.

THAT JEWEL AT YOUR THROAT...

IT'S BEAUTIFUL.

THE ASTREA OF KAMARG.

THE GUARDIANS CLAIM THAT EVERY DUCHESS OF THE LAND HAS WORN IT.

SINCE MY FATHER NEVER REMARRIED, THE PRIVILEGE WENT TO ME.

WILL YOU FIGHT TOMORROW?

I MUST. AFTER EVERYTHING YOUR FATHER HAS DONE, I CANNOT REFUSE HIM MY SWORD.

HE DOESN'T ASK FOR IT, DORIAN. AND TIME IS RUNNING OUT. BOWGENTLE TOLD YOU THIS.

WHEN THE THREE-HEARTED ORB CEASES TO PROTECT YOU, THE FLUX WILL RETURN TO THE CURSED JEWEL IN YOUR HEAD AND THE GRANBRETANS, FURIOUS WITH YOU, WILL IMMEDIATELY DESTROY YOUR SOUL.

I WON'T LET THEM DO THAT, YISSELDA.

BOWGENTLE'S MAGIC HAS GIVEN ME SOME TIME.

I WILL FIND A SOLUTION.

I CAN SEE ONLY ONE.

PROMISE ME, THAT IF YOU SURVIVE TOMORROW...

YOU LEAVE IMMEDIATELY IN SEARCH OF THIS MAGE.

HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN FREE YOU FROM THE POWER OF THIS JEWEL.

THIS MAGE COULD ALSO ALREADY BE DEAD, YISSELDA.

AND EVEN IF HE ISN'T, I HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING EXACTLY WHERE HE CAN BE FOUND. WHAT BOWGENTLE REMEMBERS IS FROM TOO LONG AGO.

I KNOW.

BUT IT'S THE ONLY LEAD WE HAVE.

IT'S OUR ONLY HOPE.

THE BATTLE OF KAMARG BEGAN THE NEXT DAY, AT DAWN.

THE GRANBRETAN FIRST UNLEASHED THEIR ARTILLERY AND AIRPOWER AGAINST THE FLUX BARRIER GENERATED BY THE TOWERS.

ON THE GROUND, BOTH FORCES HELD UNFLINCHINGLY FIRM.

IT WAS JEREK NANKENSEEN, RENOWNED COMMANDER OF THE FLY, WHO'D BEEN CHARGED WITH COMMAND OF THE IMPRESSIVE GRANBRETAN ARMY.

HE WAS FACED WITH COUNT BRASS AND LIEUTENANT VON VILLACH WHO LED THE KAMARG FORCES, OUTNUMBERED TWO TO ONE.

A TERRIBLE RAIN OF FIRE DESCENDED RELENTLESSLY UPON THE MAGICAL DEFENSES.

BUT NOTHING GAVE. THE ANCIENT MAGIC OF THE STAINED FLUX, ENHANCED EVEN BY BOWGENTLE'S SCIENCE, DID NOT YIELD.

MELIADUS AND HIS INNER CIRCLE OVERSAW THE BATTLE FROM THE REAR.

ONLY DORIAN HAWKMOON WAS ABSENT FROM THE FIELD.

WHERE ARE YOU HIDING, DUKE OF KÖLN?

THE FLUX BATTERIES ARE CHARGED, COUNT!

WE AWAIT YOUR ORDERS!

DO NOT FORGET, COUNT. THIS WILL EMPTY THE CHARGES IN ONE GO. WE ARE ONLY CAPABLE OF ONE VOLLEY.

THEN LET'S HOPE IT'S MEMORABLE.

SOLDIER! FIRE!!

NOW!!

FIRE!

KLANK

KLANK

KLANK

KLANK

THE CALL TO FIRE WAS ANSWERED WITH FIRE.

BOOM

A TRULY ANCIENT KNOWLEDGE SUDDENLY TORE THE SKIES APART.

FFSHHH UH

WHH!!

ON THIS AUTUMN DAY, A TERRIBLE AND FORGOTTEN WEAPON SWEPT THE RANKS OF THE INVINCIBLE DARK ARMY.

A MAGIENCE FROM ANOTHER AGE DECIMATED A SWATHE OF THE GRANBRETAN TROOPS AND RESTORED BALANCE BETWEEN THE FORCES.

THIS CHARADE HAS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH.

LAUNCH THE PYROTHOPTERS!

MELIADUS PLAYS HIS LAST CARD.
THREE HUGE PYROTHOPTERS LIFT OFF TOWARDS THE SKIES.
THREE DEATH MACHINES CHARGED WITH CONDENSED BLACK FLUX.
THREE TERRIBLE FLYING BOMBS PILOTED BY WIDOWS OF THE CROW TO WHOM THE DARK BARON OF LONDRA HAD PROMISED GLORY IN DEATH.
VROC
VROC
THE SAME GLORY GIVEN TO THEIR HUSBANDS BRAVELY FALLEN IN BATTLE IN SERVICE TO THE EMPIRE AND WHOSE NAMES FOREVER ADORNED THE WALLS OF THE PALACE OF TEARS.

THE INVISIBLE SHIELD GENERATED BY THE TOWERS COLLAPSES.

SOLDIERS!

THE GROUND BATTLE CAN FINALLY BEGIN.

CHARGE!!!

CHARGE!!!

THE GRANBRETAN FRONT LINES ARE SHATTERED BY THE FURIOUS CHARGE OF THE WHITE BULLS OF KAMARG.

THE GUARDIAN CAVALRY IS THEN ABLE TO FORGE DEEP INTO THE BREACHES AND CAUSE EVEN MORE CHAOS.

IN THE AIR, THE FLAMINGOS FACED OFF BRAVELY AGAINST WHAT REMAINED OF THE PYROTHOPTERS.

BUT THEIR FIREPOWER PROVED INFERIOR, AND THEY WERE FORCED TO FALL EVASIVELY BACK.

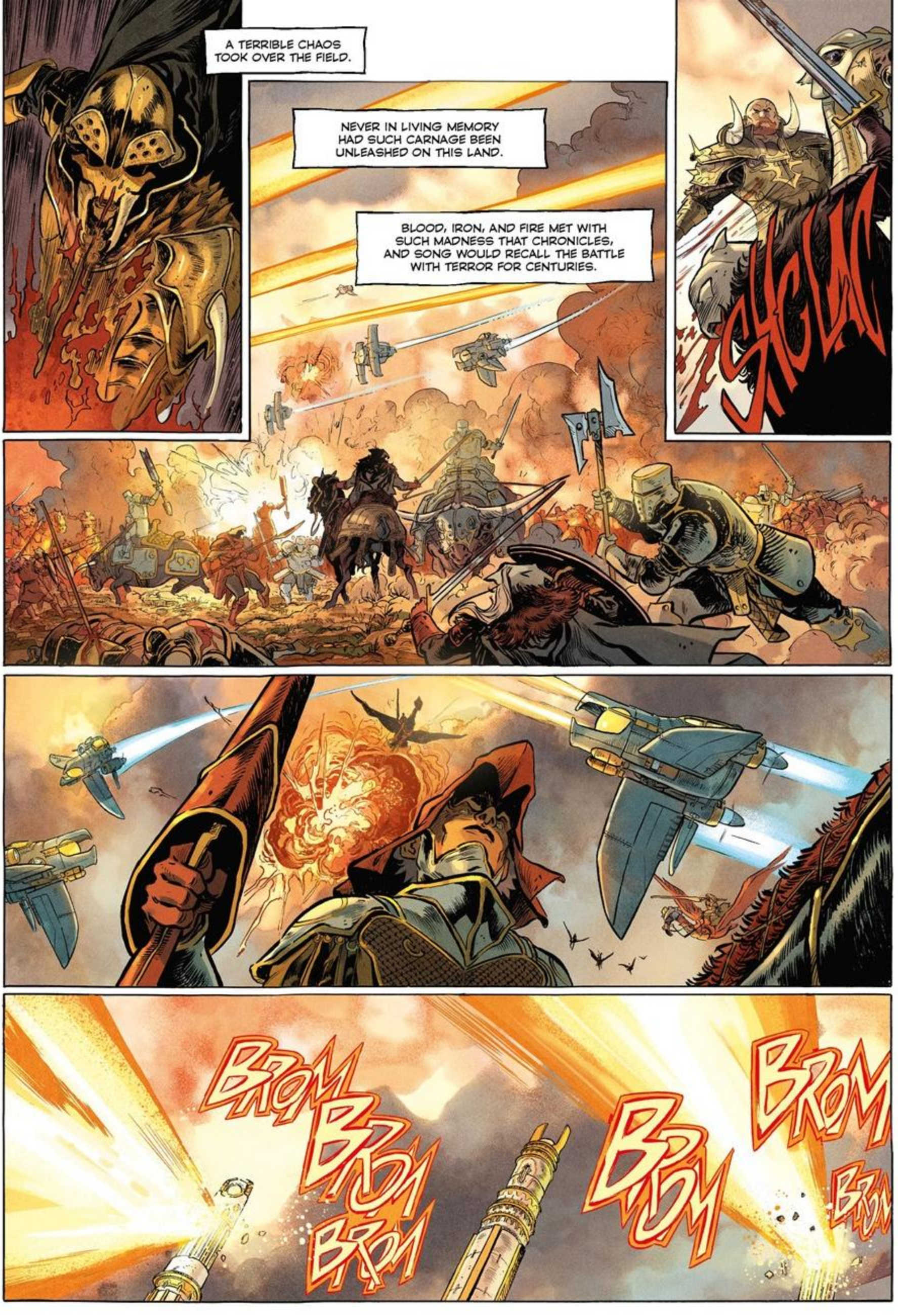
COUNT BRASS KNEW THE LOSSES IN THEIR RANKS WOULD BE HEAVY.

BUT THE BIGGEST THREAT CAME FROM THE REST OF THE GRANBRETAN ARTILLERY.

THAT NOW CONVERGED THEIR FIREPOWER ON THE DEFENSELESS SENTINEL TOWERS.

BOOM

BOOM


A TERRIBLE CHAOS TOOK OVER THE FIELD.
NEVER IN LIVING MEMORY HAD SUCH CARNAGE BEEN UNLEASHED ON THIS LAND.
BLOOD, IRON, AND FIRE MET WITH SUCH MADNESS THAT CHRONICLES, AND SONG WOULD RECALL THE BATTLE WITH TERROR FOR CENTURIES.
SHOLAC
BROM
BROM
BROM
BROM
BROM
BROM

THOUGH THEY WOULD TELL OF HOW THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME, IN THIS LOST BACKWARD LAND THAT WAS KAMARG, THAT THE GRANBRETAN ARMY WAS DECIMATED BY THE MAGIC OF STAINED FLUX...

...THEY WOULD ALSO SPEAK OF THE DARK DAY THE FIRE OF THEIR BALLISTAE BROUGHT DOWN TWO OF THE SENTINEL TOWERS.

BAOM

BAOM

AS THESE ANCIENT GUARDIANS THAT HAD WATCHED PROUDLY OVER THESE MARSHES SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME FELL TO THE GROUND, SO DID KAMARG'S ENTIRE DEFENSIVE STRATEGY.

THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ANCIENTS HAD BEEN LOST, AND NO ONE COULD EVER REBUILD THESE AGELESS VESTIGES UPON WHICH THE DUKEDOM HAD FOREVER RELIED ON.

WHATEVER THE OUTCOME OF THE BATTLE, KAMARG WOULD HENCEFORTH BE VULNERABLE TO THE FEROCITY OF ITS ENEMIES.

BROOO

THE TIME HAS COME, YISSELDA...

YOUR FATHER WON'T STOP ME THIS TIME.

COUNT! UP THERE!

IT'S MELIADUS! HE'S GONE PAST.

THAT SMOKE... THOSE THUDS... HOW TO TELL, BOWGENTLE?

HAVE WE WON?

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY. WE MUST WAIT FOR THE FIRST MESSENGERS.

THEY SHOULDN'T BE LONG.

OVER THERE!

AN ORNI-THOPTER!

THEN THEY'VE BROKEN THROUGH OUR LINES.

WE NEED TO RETURN INDOORS, YISSELDA. I PROMISED THE COUNT I WOULD LOOK AFTER YOU.

NO, BOWGENTLE!

I NEED TO KNOW IF MY FATHER IS STILL ALIVE.

MELIADUS!

SO THAT'S WHERE YOU WERE HIDING, DUKE OF KÖLN...

AS A PALTRY LAST DEFENSE BEFORE THE CITY GATES...

FOLLOW HIM!!

WOOSH

YISSELDA! GET BACK!

BSSSSS

PSSH

BARON?

IS MY FATHER...

YES. YOUR FATHER IS MOST LIKELY DEAD BY NOW, BUT THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT.

ONE MORE STEP, BARON, AND YOU'LL REGRET IT!

BLAM

GO!

YISSELDA!

DORIAN!

MELIADUS! LET HER GO!

YOU'RE TOO LATE, DUKE OF KÖLN!

NO!

FAR TOO LATE!

YISSELDA!

YISSELDA...

SAY SOMETHING!

DORIAN...

THE MOMENT HAS CLEARLY COME TO SETTLE OUR AFFAIRS.

I SWORE TO KILL YOU, BARON.

I'M GOING TO DO IT NOW.

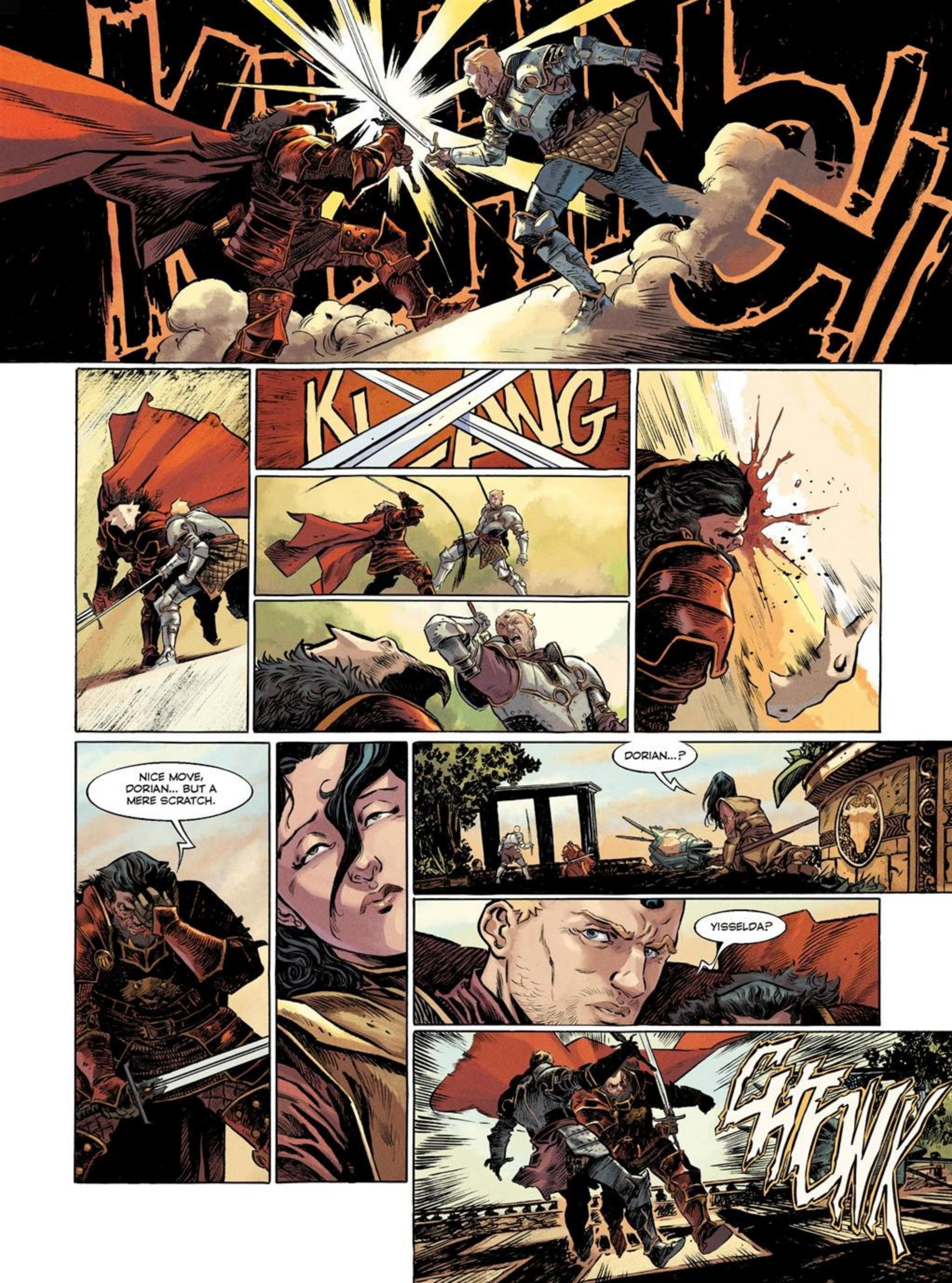
THAT STONE IN YOUR HEAD WAS MEANT TO GIVE US TOTAL CONTROL. THAT CHARLATAN KALAN WAS WRONG AGAIN.

AND YOU ALONG WITH HIM, BARON. THIS ERROR WILL COST YOU DEARLY.

I'M GOING TO RIP THAT JEWEL OUT. IT'S PROPERTY OF THE EMPIRE.

I TRUST YOU DON'T HAVE ANY RESERVATIONS?

NONE AT ALL.


KLANG
NICE MOVE, DORIAN... BUT A MERE SCRATCH.
DORIAN...?
YISSELDA?
CHONK

PRINCESS!!

I'LL RETURN, YISSELDA.

YOU KNOW IT.

AND WE'LL WELCOME YOU IN THE SAME FASHION, BARON.

FURTHER AWAY THE BATTLE WAS STILL RAGING.

THE LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES WERE COLOSSAL.

BUT THE COUNT AND VON VILLACH WERE STILL FIGHTING WITH INCREDIBLE VALOR.

SLASH!

JEREK HAD TO FACE FACTS.

RETREAT! RETREAT!

BROUMMM

RETREAT!

VICTORY!

VICTORY!

COUNT, THEY'RE FLEEING...

THE GRANBRETANS ARE FLEEING.

KAMARG HAS WON...

THE CITY OF AIGUES-MORTES SEVERAL HOURS LATER.

IT'S THANKS TO YOU, THE PEOPLE OF KAMARG, THAT WE OWE THIS VICTORY!

TO YOUR FATHERS, YOUR SONS AND BROTHERS, WHO FELL TODAY IN BATTLE WITH THE DARK EMPIRE!

THEIR DEEDS WILL LONG BE SUNG AND THEIR MEMORIES HONORED!

WE HAVE VANQUISHED THE MOST POWERFUL FORCE IN THIS WORLD! WE, THE HUMBLE DUKEDOM D'AIGUES-MORTES, HAVE DEFEATED THE ARMY OF GRANBRETAN!

HOURRA!!

THIS VICTORY WILL INSPIRE OTHERS! ELSEWHERE! EVERYWHERE! AND OTHER NATIONS WILL FINALLY RISE UP AGAINST THE KING-EMPEROR OF LONDRA! I TELL YOU THIS, GARDIANS! WE WILL ALL MARCH TOGETHER!

UNITED UNDER ONE BANNER! TO CHASE AWAY THOSE WHO HAVE OPPRESSED US FOR TOO LONG!

HOURRA!!

HOURRA!!

BUT IT IS ALSO A TIME FOR CAUTION! AS THE LOSS OF OUR SENTINEL TOWERS HAS ROBBED US OF A VITAL DEFENSIVE POWER.

THE KNOWLEDGE TO CONSTRUCT THEM WAS LOST A LONG TIME AGO! WE WON'T BE ABLE TO REBUILD THEM! WE WILL HAVE TO LIVE WITH THIS UNCERTAINTY!

I WON'T LIE TO YOU, GARDIANS! THE GRANBRETANNIAN BEAST IS WOUNDED BUT IT IS NOT VANQUISHED!

THE ENEMY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RETURN TO OUR WALLS! AND WE WILL FIND THE MEANS TO PUSH THEM BACK AGAIN ONCE MORE!

UNTIL THAT DAY COMES, RETURN TO YOUR FIELDS! FILL YOUR LARDERS! REBUILD WHAT HAS BEEN DESTROYED! FOR DARK DAYS COULD COME BACK SOON! LET US GET READY TOGETHER, PEOPLE OF KAMARG!

LET US GET READY FOR WHAT IS TO COME!

HOW MUCH TIME DO WE HAVE LEFT?

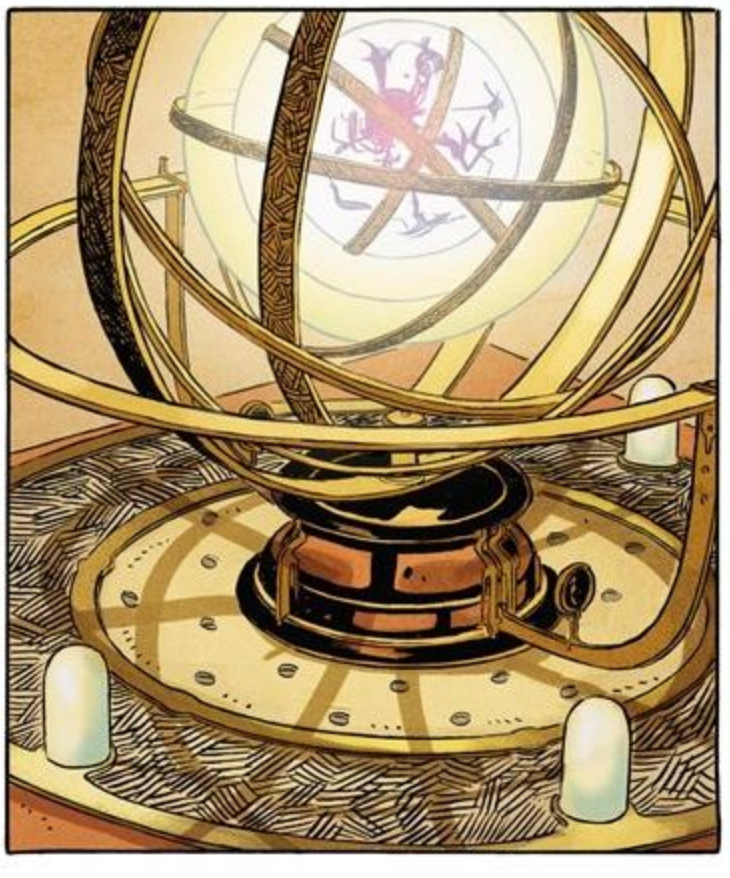
THE TIME IT TAKES FOR THE DARK FLUX TO BREACH THESE THREE GLASS PRISONS.

AND BE FREE ONCE AGAIN TO JOIN WITH THE JEWEL.

IT COULD BE NOW, OR IN SEVERAL MONTHS OR EVEN A YEAR. WE DON'T KNOW.

COULDN'T BOWGENTLE MAYBE REMOVE THE STONE?
HE COULD.

BUT IT WOULD KILL ME.



YOU MADE ME A PROMISE, DORIAN. THE TIME HAS COME TO HONOR IT.

YISSELDA... YOU HEARD WHAT YOUR FATHER SAID. THE GRANBRETANS WILL RETURN SOON, AND I CAN'T LEAVE HIM TO FACE THAT THREAT ALONE.

HE ISN'T ALONE.

AND WHAT HELP WOULD YOU BE WHEN YOUR SOUL IS DESTROYED?

GO SEEK THIS MAGE INSTEAD, DORIAN.

FIND HIM WHEREVER HE IS AND COME BACK TO ME, HEALED.

CITY OF AIGUES-MORTES, THE NEXT DAY.

ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, DORIAN?

YES, COUNT.

I CAN'T ALLOW THIS MENACE TO HOVER OVER ME. I DON'T HAVE THE CHOICE.

THE LANDS YOU WILL PASS THROUGH ARE RIFE WITH DANGERS.

THOSE WHO DWELL THERE HAVE BARELY EMERGED FROM THE *CRAZY AGE*. EVERYTHING TO THE EAST IS FURY AND SAVAGERY.

AND THERE'S NOTHING TO SAY THAT THIS MALAGIGI IS EVEN STILL ALIVE.

HOPE IS SLIM, WE KNOW THAT, BUT IT'S THE ONLY ONE WE HAVE.

YISSELDA IS RIGHT. I MUST FIND THIS MAGE.

TO HEAL. OR OTHERWISE SNUFF OUT THE HOPE HE REPRESENTS.

IN WHICH CASE, MAY THE FINEST WINDS GUIDE YOUR WAY, HAWKMOON.

I AM CERTAIN WE WILL SEE YOU AGAIN SOON.

NESSIUS MIGHT SEEM A TOUCH CRANKY AT FIRST. GIVE HIM TIME AND HE'LL SOON GET USED TO YOU.

HE'S ONE OF OUR FASTEST STEEDS.

UNDERSTOOD, LIEUTENANT. I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM.

GOODBYE, YISSELDA.

GOODBYE, DORIAN.

CITY OF LONDRA, TOWER OF THE SERPENT.

THIS YOUNG TEUTONIC MESSED YOU UP A TREAT, BARON.

AN INDELIBLE SOUVENIR OF YOUR LAST ENCOUNTER.

ONE MORE SNARKY COMMENT, KALAN, AND I'M HAVING YOU BOILED ALIVE!

REMEMBER YOU NEED TO ANSWER FOR YOUR FAILURE WITH THE JEWEL!

THE KING-EMPEROR HAS HEARD FROM ME ON THAT SUBJECT... AND HE UNDERSTANDS THE WILD AND ANCIENT NATURE OF THE FLUX THAT INHABITS THE STONE...

I ONLY GUARANTEED ITS CONTROL ON THE CONDITION THAT HE BE KEPT PRISONER...

HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE, KALAN?!

HOW DID IT HAPPEN?!

THE MAGIC OF THE FLUX IS LOADED WITH CONTRADICTIONS, BARON. EVERY DAY REVEALS MORE ON THE EXTENT OF OUR IGNORANCE.

WE STILL HAVE A LOT TO UNDERSTAND.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS WE KNOW WHERE HAWKMOON IS LOCATED.

THE KING-EMPEROR HAS GRANTED THE RAISING OF A HUGE ARMY, SO THAT WE CAN BE DONE WITH KAMARG ONCE AND FOR ALL! THE DESTRUCTION OF THEIR SENTINEL TOWERS HAS DOOMED THEM.

THEY WON'T STOP ME THIS TIME.

BARON, MAY I ASK WHAT FATE YOU'RE STORING FOR THESE PRESUMPTUOUS INSOLENTS?

THE DUKE OF KÖLN AND HIS COMPANIONS WILL BE SACRIFICED TO THE PALE HOUNDS OF THE KING-EMPEROR. HUON WISHES TO SUMMON THE ENTIRE COURT FOR THE OCCASION FOR WHAT WILL BE A MEMORABLE SPECTACLE.

AND YISSELDA?

SHE WILL BE SOLD AS A SLAVE TO ONE OF THE THREE STEEL PRINCES OF THE SUBTERRANEAN KINGDOMS OF SCOTIA.

SHE WILL COME TO UNDERSTAND THE ERROR OF HER WAYS.

A STEEL PRINCE? NO ONE DESERVES SUCH A PUNISHMENT.

AND YET IT'S WHAT I'VE CHOSEN FOR HER.

THEN SO BE IT, BARON.

CITY OF AIGUES-MORTES, THE NEXT DAY.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

THAT THE COUNTDOWN HAS BEGUN, COUNT.

THE FIRST GLASS CELL IS THE EASIEST TO BREACH.

LOOK... THE BLACK FLUX HAS ALREADY PASSED THROUGH IT.

HOW LONG, BOWGENTLE? HOW LONG DOES HE HAVE LEFT?

THREE MOONS, COUNT. AT MOST, UNTIL THE FINAL ORB IS OVERCOME.

AND THE BLACK FLUX RETURNS TO ITS ORIGINAL RECEPTACLE.